AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8, as follows:

The ~~present invention~~ disclosed technology relates to recording medium discharge mechanisms that are installed in image forming apparatuses such as copying machines, printers, and facsimile machines and to image forming apparatuses provided with such recording medium discharge mechanisms. In particular, the ~~present invention~~ disclosed technology relates to ~~improving so-called~~ internal discharge-type recording medium discharge mechanisms in which the discharge portion for the recording media is arranged in a substantially central portion in the vertical direction of the apparatus.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 3, lines 16-24, as follows:

The embodiments of the present invention ~~has~~ have been devised in consideration of these issues, and it is an object thereof to provide a recording medium discharge mechanism that is provided with a discharge space into which a recording medium that has undergone image formation is discharged and that is capable of achieving device compactness and control operation simplification, and an image forming apparatus provided with the recording medium discharge mechanism.

~~DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION~~ SUMMARY

In order to achieve the above-mentioned object, ~~the~~ an embodiment of the present invention is provided with a member capable of changing position between an upright state in which small size sheets are caught when small size sheets are discharged and a laid flat state in which a placement surface of a discharge space is extended for placement of large size sheets when large size sheets are discharged by a discharge mechanism having the discharge space whose downstream side in a paper discharge direction has been opened. That is, the upright state contributes to reductions in the installation space of image forming apparatuses by the fact that this member does not protrude laterally from the apparatus, and with the laid flat state it is possible to achieve placement of large size sheets while avoiding paper bending and paper jams inside the discharge space.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 9, line 13, as follows:

~~BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION~~ DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Hereinafter, one or more embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. The ~~present~~ disclosed embodiment is described regarding a case in which the ~~present invention~~ embodiment is applied to a compound machine provided with a combination of a copying function, a printing function, and a facsimile function.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 20, as follows:

FIG. 1 shows an outline of the internal structure of a compound machine 1 as an image forming apparatus according to the ~~present~~ embodiment. As shown in FIG. 1, the compound machine 1 is provided with a scanner portion 2 as an original capturing portion, a printing portion 3 as an image-forming portion, and an automatic original feeding portion 4. The following is a description of the components therein.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 21, as follows:

Next, a paper discharge mechanism 7 is described as a recording medium discharge mechanism~~, which is a portion that is characteristic of the present embodiment~~. The paper discharge mechanism 7 is provided with the above-mentioned discharge tray 35 and a side wall member 71 that is arranged at an end portion that is downstream in the paper discharge direction of the discharge tray 35.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 2, as follows:

In the above-described embodiment and modified example, description was given ~~concerned with when the present invention was~~ as applied to a multifunction type image forming apparatus (compound machine) 1 provided with functions of a combination of a copying machine, a printer, and a facsimile machine. However, the ~~present invention is~~ embodiments are not

limited to this and may be applied to an image forming apparatus provided with any one of these functions or a different image forming apparatus.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 24, as follows:

The ~~present invention is~~ embodiments are effective in image forming apparatuses having a discharge portion for printed sheets in an empty intermediate space of a square-cornered reverse "C" shape. The ~~present invention, contributes~~ embodiments contribute to reducing the installation space of image forming apparatuses by having a side wall member that does not protrude laterally from the apparatus, and is beneficial in that large size sheets can be loaded while avoiding paper bending and paper jams inside the discharge space in the laid flat state, thereby enabling compactness of installation space for image forming apparatuses, and since it is unnecessary to provide a mechanism for horizontally rotating the discharged paper collection means as is done conventionally or to carry out ON/OFF control of a lighting lamp, simplification of control operation can be achieved.